

Preliminary Amendment

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Applicant(s):

Serial No.: 10/643,749

Confirmation No.: 4136

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For: HARDENABLE ARTICLE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAMERemarks

Please enter and consider new claims 46-53, and original claims 1-45. Support for new claims 46-53 can be found in the specification as originally filed.

Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives at the below-listed telephone number, if there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Facsimile Cover Sheet and the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 19th day of February, 2004, at 3:25 PM (Central Time).

19 FEB 2004
Date

Signature: KWR
Name: KEVIN W. RAASCH